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varieties published as pamphlet brochures or as short papers in journals difficult or impossible of general access, as, for example, in such out-of-the-way places, from the standpoint of scientific literature, as Chile, Brazil, Jamaica, or Trinidad, are a positive detriment to science, because very few will ever be able to consult the original descriptions and very possibly the author himself often fails to receive a copy of them. This is all bad enough, but much worse is the use for publication of new species, or new facts and notes, of local daily or weekly journals of all sorts, such as *The Jamaica Post*, *Tri-Weekly Budget*, *Daily Gleaner*, *California Fruit Grower*, *Rio Grande Republican*, *Southwestern Farm and Orchard*, *Manhattan Kansas Industrialist*, *California State Board of Horticulture*, etc. In one number of the *California Fruit Grower*, for example, and none of the titles given are fanciful, no less than seven new species of scale insects are indicated, including *crawii* and *greenii*, noted above, and this as late as 1897.

This matter has been gone into perhaps already fully enough, and in fact the writer regrets the apparent necessity of continuing the discussion, hoping as he did that his first article would serve the needs of the case. If any 'running amuck' has been done, it is in the hasty publication of half-digested studies, as illustrated by the consideration of the single species given above.

C. L. MARLATT.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

#### THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

THE first regular meeting of this latest comer in the brotherhood of societies was held at Columbia University, Saturday, October 28th. A preliminary meeting in June elected officers and decided some details.

It is proposed to hold four meetings annually, simultaneously with the American Mathematical Society, which also meets at Columbia University. It is hoped that the two societies will coöperate and benefit each other. At the same time the new society is pledged to coöperate with Section B of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

On Saturday last the mathematicians adjourned to hear the opening address by the

President, Professor H. A. Rowland, who handled the great questions which confront the physicist of to-day in a most interesting manner and elicited frequent applause.

After business discussion several papers were presented.

Professor Rowland described experiments which failed to demonstrate an 'ether-wind' or a movement of the ether with moving matter, which would be of extreme interest if found.

Professor Pupin showed a method of rectifying alternating currents by an electrolytic cell and battery.

Professor Webster gave a semi-popular illustration of the propagation of an electromagnetic wave in the ether, and deduced the formulæ. He also showed and explained a curve-tracing top.

The meeting was eminently encouraging. Some thirty or forty working physicists were gathered together, representing fifteen or sixteen leading universities and colleges, and all seemed agreed that the new society was needed and would be a success.

The next meeting will be held at Columbia University between Christmas and New Year.

The present officers are: H. A. Rowland, president; A. A. Michelson, vice-president; Ernest Merritt, secretary; W. Hallock, Treasurer.

W. H.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

BY the will of the late Judge Charles P. Daly, the American Geographical Society, New York, receives \$5,000 for the founding of a medal to be given for distinguished geographical services.

A PRELIMINARY meeting of the members and fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science resident in or near New York City was held at Columbia University on October 24th, to make preliminary arrangements for the meeting of the Association to be held in New York during the last week in June, 1900. The business transacted included the election of an executive committee as follows: Professor J. J. Stevenson, Chairman, Professor J. McK. Cattell, secretary, Mr. Geo. F. Kunz, treasurer, Professor H. F. Osborn (entertainment), Professor N. L. Britton (excursions), Mr. C. F. Cox (transportation), and the general

officers of the Association resident in New York. Professor R. S. Woodward, president; Professor W. Hallock, secretary of the council; Professor J. F. Kemp, chairman of the geological section, and Dr. R. T. MacDougal, secretary of the botanical section.

Mr. O. F. Cook of the Division of Botany, Department of Agriculture, has been detailed to make a preliminary examination of the plant products of Puerto Rico with reference to the introduction of new and useful tropical plants into that island. Mr. Cook is accompanied by Mr. G. N. Collins of the Department of Agriculture as photographer, and by Mr. George P. Gall, who is sent by the Smithsonian Institution to collect material for the National Herbarium. The expedition left New York on October 28th by the United States transport MacPherson.

Mr. R. E. Snodgrass, assistant in entomology in Stanford University, and Mr. A. H. Heller, student in zoology, have just returned from a ten months collecting trip to the Galapagos Islands. The collections are large; birds, fish and insects and spiders being represented by especially large numbers of specimens. The collections belong to Stanford University under whose auspices the expedition was made.

PROFESSOR HENRY S. CARHART, of the department of physics of the University of Michigan, who is absent on leave, is at the Physical Technical Institute, Berlin. He is comparing the electromotive force of the standard Clark cell with that of the standard cell of the Institute.

THE following members of faculties of the University of Michigan, who were absent from the University last year on leave, have returned: Professor Volney M. Spalding, of the department of botany; Alexander Ziwet, junior professor of mathematics; George W. Patterson, junior professor of physics, and Perry F. Trowbridge, instructor in organic chemistry. During his absence abroad the degree of Ph.D. (Munich), was conferred on Professor Patterson. His thesis, which is entitled 'Eine Experimentelle und theoretische Untersuchung des Selbstpotentials,' is published in the October number of *Wiedemann's Annalen*, Leipzig.

PROFESSOR BALDWIN SPENCER has been appointed honorary director of the National Museum at Melbourne in succession to the late Sir Frederick M'Coy. The trustees of the Museum believe that it should be removed to a more central site.

THE Bradshaw lecture of the Royal College of Surgeons will be delivered by Mr. H. G. Howse, who will take as his subject 'A Centennial Review of Surgery.'

A LARGE and valuable collection of paintings of the fishes inhabiting the fresh and salt water about Japan is being exhibited in the museum of the University of Michigan. The collection was a present to the University by Frederick Stearns, of Detroit. The paintings are in water colors and are the work of a Japanese artist.

GRANTS have been made from the Moray endowment of the University of Edinburgh to Professor E. A. Schäfer for purposes of research on the central nervous system, and to Dr. John Malcolm for purposes of research on the alterations in bone marrow produced by nucleins and their allies.

DR. JAMES H. LEUBA, of Bryn Mawr College, has compiled a card catalogue of psychology containing about 10,000 titles. The catalogue consists of the contents of periodicals from 1860-1899. The periodicals selected are not confined to those devoted to psychology, but include many journals, such as *Nature*, the *American Journal of Science*, etc., in which psychological articles might be readily overlooked. There are, indeed, many journals omitted, such as the German physiological archives, but it is hoped that these may be indexed at some future time. Dr. Leuba offers to supply mimeographed copies of the catalogue on standard cards at a price not to exceed \$50.00.

MR. W. A. SNOW, late instructor in entomology, in Stanford University, was drowned October 10th in San Francisco harbor. He was swept overboard from a small launch while greeting General Funston and the 20th Kansas Volunteers, just returned from Manila. Mr. Snow was a son of Chancellor F. H. Snow of the University of Kansas, and had been an instructor in entomology in the University of Kansas, the University of Illinois, and Stanford

University. He had published several systematic papers on the Diptera.

PROFESSOR J. B. CARNOY, of the Catholic University of Louvain, died at Schuls in the Engadine on the sixth of September. He was well known by his uncompleted manual of *Biologie cellulaire* and by his memoirs upon development of the sexual elements. He also founded the journal *La Cellule*. His writings were characterized by great lucidity but also by a marked positiveness and by a polemical tone which sometimes caused his assertions to be received with reserve. He was nevertheless an able and conscientious observer.

MR. GRANT ALLEN died on October 25th. He was born at Kingston, Ont., in 1848, and was well known, both for his writing on popular science, and more recently for his novels and other literary works. His books on 'Physiological Aesthetics' (1877) and the 'Color-Sense' (1879) promised serious contributions to science, and his work on the 'Evolution of the Idea of God' (1897) was an anthropological study of value, but most of his books and articles, which are extremely numerous, are of a popular character devoted especially to explaining the doctrine of evolution.

THE date of the celebration of the centenary of the Royal College of Surgeons in England has been fixed for July 25th, 26th and 27th, 1900.

THE National Geographic Society, Washington, announces the following lectures during November and December :

*The popular course:* November 3d, 'The Alaskan Boundary,' by Hon. John W. Foster ; November 17th, 'Arctic Explorations in 1898-'99,' by Walter Wellman ; December 1st, 'Glaciers of Alaska seen by the Harriman Expedition,' by Dr. G. K. Gilbert ; December 8th, 'The Philippine Islands,' by Hon. John Barrett ; December 15th, 'Natives of the Philippines,' by Professor Dean C. Worcester.

*The technical course:* November 10th, 'Tide-Levels of the Great Lakes,' by Mr. A. J. Henry ; November 24th, 'Explorations in Patagonia,' by Mr. J. B. Hatcher ; December 23d, 'Gila River and its Irrigation Possibilities,' by F. H. Newell.

Succeeding lectures for which partial arrangements have already been made will be announced on January 1st.

The *British Medical Journal* announces that during the coming session of the Pathological Society of London an important new departure will be made in regard to the meetings of this Society. Four of the fifteen meetings which have hitherto been held at the rooms of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society are to be held at different London laboratories, in connection or not, with medical schools, the object being that demonstrations may be given which it would be extremely difficult or impossible to carry out elsewhere. This is the realization of a proposal made some years ago by the late Professor Roy. It has, moreover, been determined that the report of an author's communication or demonstration given at any of the four laboratory meetings shall be made public only if the author himself so wish. The chief reason for this regulation is that the work being carried out at laboratories may be at such a stage of progress when brought forward that its publication would be premature and injudicious. The next meeting of the Society will be held at the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine on November 7th, and subsequent laboratory meetings will be held at University College, London (February 6th), at the Laboratories of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons (March 6th), and at King's College (May 1st).

It is expected that the Chicago Drainage Canal, carrying the waters of Lake Michigan to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, will be open in December. It was constructed, in the first instance, to divert the sewage of Chicago from Lake Michigan, from which the city draws its water supply, but it may also be used as a ship canal, if the Illinois River is deepened, connecting Chicago and New Orleans. The canal is 35 miles in length, over 150 feet in width, and 20 feet deep, and has been constructed at a cost of about \$30,000,000.

AN Institute for the study of malaria has been established at Merv as a department of the St. Petersburg Institute of Experimental Medicine. The staff consists of a director with three assistants.

*Nature* states that in compliance with the request made by Russian men of science to the

Russian imperial authorities, the scientific exploration of the coast-line of the Pacific in the Far East is to be undertaken. It has been arranged that a distinguished zoologist and member of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society shall undertake the exploration at the cost of the Society, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture. The expedition intends to make investigations with a view to classifying the marine fauna and flora on the coast of the Russian territory, and the conditions of zoological life will also be investigated upon the Liao-Tong peninsula, and in the adjacent regions of Manchuria and Korea. The period for these investigations has been fixed at two years, and the cost of the expedition is estimated at 12,000 roubles. The Geographical Society has promised to make a grant of 7,500 roubles towards this sum, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Imperial Domains will contribute the remaining 4,500 roubles. The Ministry of Agriculture has been led to take a part in this expedition in the expectation that its results will be of great service in developing the coast industries of the Amur and the Island of Saghalien, and also in the districts which have been acquired lately by the Russian government. The Geographical Society also entertains great hopes of the successful results of this expedition, in view of the fact that the previous expeditions sent by it to investigate the Black, Azov and Marmora seas were particularly successful. The expedition to the Far East will work in conjunction with the Society for Exploring the Amur Territory, and intends to establish at Vladivostock a zoological station for studying the marine fauna of the district.

PROFESSOR J. MILNE writes to *Nature* that unusually large seismograms were obtained in the Isle of Wight on September 3d, 10th, 17th, 20th and 23d. The first three refer to disturbances originating in Alaska. The fourth refers to disasters in Asia Minor, and the last to an earthquake having an origin as distant as Japan. Since the 23d, in the Isle of Wight, and also at Kew, not the slightest movement has been recorded. The inference is that the great earthquakes reported as having taken place at Darjeeling on the night of September 25-26th are at the most small and

local, and are not likely to have been recorded outside the Indian Peninsula. It is extremely likely that the tremors noticed in Darjeeling were due to landslides, and seismic phenomena were entirely absent.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

DR. BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, recently professor of Greek in Cornell University, was inaugurated President of the University of California on October 25th. Addresses were made by President Jordan, of Stanford University; President Gilman of the Johns Hopkins University, and President Wheeler.

By the will of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt, of New York, Yale University receives \$100,000 and Vanderbilt University \$50,000.

MR. CHARLES HOLCROFT has given £20,000 for the new Birmingham University. Other smaller gifts have also been announced, bringing the total endowment to £315,400. The endowment of Mason College of £200,000 will be transferred to the University, giving it a total endowment of over £500,000.

It is proposed to enlarge the Durham University College of Science at a cost of £50,000. About £10,000 for this purpose was recently subscribed at a preliminary meeting.

THE attendance at Harvard University, not including Radcliffe College and the Summer School, is this year in all 4,067 students, an increase of 155 over last year. The numbers in the different classes and schools are as follows:

	1898-'99.	1899-'00.
Seniors.....	369	311
Juniors.....	335	351
Sophomores.....	508	507
Freshman.....	471	497
Specials.....	168	190
Totals.....	1,851	1,896
Science School.....	415	494
Graduate School.....	322	315
Divinity School.....	26	27
Law School.....	551	604
Medical School.....	560	550
Dental School.....	139	132
Veterinary School.....	25	24
Bussey Institution.....	23	25
Totals.....	3,912	4,067